

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

By this amendment, Claims 1-3, 5-15, 38, 41, 43-49, 51-53 and 59 have been amended. Claims 4, 17-37, 39, 42 and 54-74 have been cancelled. Hence, Claims 1-3, 5-16, 38, 40, 41 and 43-53 are pending in the application.

SUMMARY OF THE REJECTIONS/OBJECTIONS

Claims 1-3 and 6-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101.

Claims 1-3, 6-11, 38, 41 and 44-49 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,701,485 issued to Guillen ("*Guillen*").

Claims 16 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Guillen* in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,336,216 issued to Curtis ("*Curtis*").

Claims 5, 12, 43 and 50 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Guillen* in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,385,618 issued to Ng ("*Ng*").

Claims 13-15 and 51-53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Guillen* in view of *Ng* further in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,523,171 issued to Dupuy ("*Dupuy*").

THE REJECTIONS BASED ON THE PRIOR ART

Claims 1 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being unpatentable over *Guillen*. There are several features of the amended Claims 1 and 38 that are not disclosed or suggested in any way by *Guillen*. Specifically, the amended Claims 1 and 38 expressly require that a policy object, which defines a per-instance method and implementation thereof, be stored within a database. In *Guillen* the dispatch table is not stored within a database. In addition, Claims 1 and 38 expressly require that the policy object be an instance of a class; specifically, the policy object is an instance of the policy class. In *Guillen*, the dispatch table is not an instance of any class. Not only does *Guillen* fail to disclose or suggest in any way these features, none of the cited art discloses or suggests in any way these features. Therefore, Claims 1 and 38 are patentable. Reconsideration and allowance of these claims is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3, 5-16, 40, 41, and 43-53 are dependent claims, each of which depends (directly or indirectly) on the claims discussed above. Each of Claims 2, 3, 5-16, 40, 41, and 43-53 is therefore allowable for the reasons given above for the claim on which it depends. In addition, each of Claims 2, 3, 5-16, 40, 41, and 43-53 introduces one or more additional limitations that independently render it patentable. However, due to the fundamental differences already identified, to expedite the positive resolution of this case, a separate discussion of those limitations is not included at this time. The Applicants reserve the right to further point out the differences between the cited art and the novel features recited in the dependent claims.

For the reasons set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Therefore, the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance is believed next in order, and that action is most earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages or credit any overages to Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

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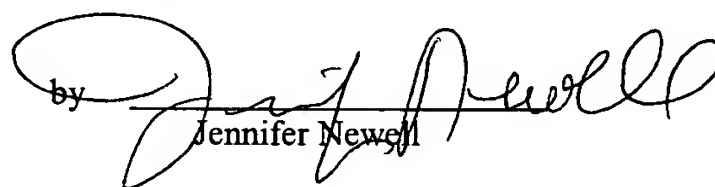
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on June 28, 2005

by



Jennifer Newell